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SPORTS

Winchester takes its offensive show on the road to Wakefield to begin Middlesex League season Friday night

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

October 3, 2025 . 6:00 AM — 3 min read

Winchester High senior linebacker and captain Bryan Harrison (54) takes down a Waltham ballcarrier during a game at Waltham on Sept. 19. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

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Domination was the operative word of the month for the Winchester High School football team. Throughout their three September games, the Red & Black (3-0) have outscored the opposition, 140-36. Breaking it down even further, they took care of both Peabody and Waltham by identical 42-7 scores, before beating up Masco, 56-22 to close out the month on Sept. 26.

But now, the calendar has flipped to October, and Coach Wally Dembowski's team is about to begin the Middlesex League schedule against host Wakefield tonight (Oct. 3) at 6 p.m.

Dembowski predicts that this game should be another dogfight at Landrigan Field between two longtime rivals.

"After watching (game) film on (Wakefield), they will be the most physically aggressive team that we've played against to this point," the coach said. "They run the ball hard, and have a solid passing attack, while getting off the ball very well. They have a good run defense with multiple fronts."

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Winchester senior quarterback Ronan O'Connell directs his teammates prior to the snap during a game against host Waltham on Sept. 19. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

Here's one more look at last Friday night's home game against Masco. The Winchester offense continued to run the ball extremely well with no turnovers, while the defense created three takeaways with two interceptions and one fumble recovery. As a whole, the unit limited Masco's run game to 67 yards on 28 carries.

Senior captain Gianni Deprimeo was Winchester's leading rusher with 16 carries for 290 yards and five touchdowns. His classmate Nicky Rotondi ran for 120 yards on eight carries. Altogether, the Red & Black accounted for 481 yards on the ground.

Will Mango was one of the leaders on defense against the Chieftains with six solo tackles, three assisted stops and one sack. Ted Budreski had five tackles. Will Bolognese, who is also the team's reliable placekicker, was credited with three tackles and one interception. On offense, he was a perfect eight-for-eight in extra points.

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The Winchester scoring plays against the Chieftains were evenly distributed. They accounted for two touchdowns in each of the four quarters.

Rotondi got the offensive going with a 24-yard touchdown run, and Bolognese then nailed his first of eight successful extra point tries.

After Masco came back to tie up the proceedings at seven apiece, the Red & Black scored the next two touchdowns. Deprimeo had them both on runs of 13- and 2-yards. The Chieftains, however, scored again to trim

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to six, 21-15. But Deprimeo got it right back from 27 yards away to close out the first half offense.

Winchester senior wideout Nicky Rotondi (3) scores a touchdown against host Waltham during the Sept. 19 game. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

It was a 28-15 game at halftime, and the Winchester boys added to their lead, when Deprimeo busted one 80-yards early on in the third quarter.

The Chieftains then accounted for another touchdown, but were still losing by two scores, 35-22.

Winchester finished off the game in style with three unanswered touchdowns. Nolan Byrne's 31-yard run to paydirt started it off, followed by a Rotondi 21-yard touchdown jaunt and another one by Deprimeo, his fifth of the game, this time from the 22.

Joe McConnell is a longtime, award-winning sports editor for numerous North Shore publications. He began covering Winchester sports for the News November.

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SPORTS

Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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March 3, 2026

SPORTS

Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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SPORTS

Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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February 27, 2026

SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

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